

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 01211 011422Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----036927 011425Z /40

O R 011110Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 247

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMMBASSY GABORONE 002

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

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TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG, FR, BE, CT

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: STATE 137343

I THINK IT HIGHLY LIKELY THAT CENTRAL AFRICA WOULD BE WILLING
TO PARTICIPATE IN A MULTILATERAL PEACE KEEPING FORCE. WE WERE

RECENTLY TOLD BY THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE IN BANGUI THAT BOKASSA HAS ALREADY ASKED FRANCE TO TRAIN A FORCE OF 2-3,000 MEN TO BE USED TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT MALLOUM IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST REBELS. TRAINING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AT FORMER FRENCH BASE AT BOUAR. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE FRENCH HAVE NOT YET MADE ANY COMMITMENT TO TRAIN CENTRAL AFRICAN TROOPS FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE ASSUME SUCH TRAINING TO BE A PRECONDITION TO CENTRAL AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN A PEACE KEEPING FORCE SINCE BOKASSA WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT WANT TO ENDANGER HIS OWN SECURITY BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF CENTRAL AFRICAN MILITARY AVAILABLE IN COUNTRY. WE KNOW THAT BOKASSA IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATING STRATEGIC SITUATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND HIS PARTICIPATION IN A MULTILATERAL FORCE WOULD NOT ONLY ENHANCE HIS POSITION BUT DRAW HIM INTO A CLOSER SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH A NUMBER OF EXTERNAL POWERS. IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT BOKASSA CAN COME UP WITH A FORCE OF 3,000 MEN AND ANY EFFECTIVE CENTRAL AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IS LIKELY TO BE ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE THAN THAT PROPOSED TO FRENCH.

QUAINTON

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